

## COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## PSALM Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19

**R** *In his time shall the righteous flourish, [and peace till the moon shall be no more].*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

Blessèd be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds! And blessèd be his glorious name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the

one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



## December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 – Advent 2

### Parish of the Harwich Peninsula

**Christmas:** two leaflets with information about the Christmas services are now out to share. Extra things are happening: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm a free family film, Arthur Christmas, in St Michael's. IsingPop worship on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm in St Michael's – great for the family! This will then be every second Sunday of the month at St Michael's at 3pm.

**Trees:** the trees in each of our church buildings have been generously supplied by Harwich Independent Funeral Services and we are very appreciative of their annual gift.

**St Nicholas Patronal Festival:** with the Deanery Choir singing and the Rev. Canon Stephen Carter playing the organ; today at 3pm (Evensong will normally be 5pm). The Rector will preach.

**Christmas Bags:** if you would like to donate to the Salvation Army Christmas Bags they are looking for: Selection Box Biscuits; Selection Box Chocolates, Christmas Puddings; Mince Pies; Tinned Ham; Custard/Dream Topping; Tins of Fruit Cocktail.

**Christmas Carols:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am at Don Thompson Care Home. Support is welcome.

**Women's Refuge Colchester:** Kirsty let Jean Craig know that she donated all of the wonderful items the army of angels collected, to a women's refuge. The lady there was VERY grateful. Kirsty explained to her that it was part of the 900 acts All Saints celebration; she was so pleased you had thought of them. A big well done and thank you to all involved.

**4 Last Things:** the early church used the Advent season to explore death, judgement, heaven and hell. We shall do the same midweek with an address by the Rector and then Compline, the late-night service. Continuing in All Saints on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Homeless:** a sheet with information on the parish agreed response to homeless people on our grounds is now available and is commended by the Archdeacon of Colchester.

**St Nicholas roof:** we have discovered that the hopper heads may be full of debris and rain is not discharging as it should; this could damage the building. The diocese sent a drone to fly and investigate free of charge.

**All Saints drainage:** an examination was undertaken on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>. The situation is more serious and may require sections of the churchyard to be dug up to clear the drainage pipes.

**All Saints cleaning:** if you'd like to come along on the morning of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the morning (8.30am - 10) there will be cleaning and decorating of the church and a promise of some treats for the workers!

**Christmas Eve:** the communion at St Nicholas will be at a new time of 7pm and will be supported by the outstanding organist Peter Clayton. This earlier time might help those for whom late night is too late. At All Saints we begin at 11pm and at St Michael's it will be 11.30pm.

**Peninsula Post 5:** is out now and covers the end and start of 2025/2026. We welcome your own contributions for the next editions.

**Baptised in December:** None **Married in December:** None

**Departed in November:** Shirley Warner; Philip (Pip) Cone; Stephanie Kirk

**St Michael's worship 9am each Sunday** (Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

**All Saints worship 10.30am each Sunday** (Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

**St Nicholas worship 10.30am each Sunday** (Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

*You should be able to access the hearing loop in each building – please let us know if you cannot*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month: Prayer Book Evensong at St Nicholas at 5pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month: Prayer and Praise at St Michael's at 5pm

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month (except August and December): Messy Church in the Esplanade Hall from 2-4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information please visit our social media:

[www.harwichparish.co.uk](http://www.harwichparish.co.uk) or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) or our Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/HarwichPeninsulaParishCofE> All Saints, St Michaels & St Nicholas or Messy Church at the Esplanade Hall